



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**COMMISSION ON HISPANIC AFFAIRS**  
*COMISIÓN DE ASUNTOS HISPANOS*

Yakima  
Study Session  
Minutes  
September 17, 2004

**I. Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 3:15 pm

**II. Roll Call.**

Commissioners present: Diana Avalos, Gabriel Banfi, Faviola Contreras, Yvonne Lopez-Morton, Gabriel Portugal, Homero Tamez, Ruben Trejo and Rebecca Villareal

Commissioners absent: Leo Gaeta (excused)

Staff present: Uriel Iñiguez and Cindy García

**III. Peter Antolin – Office of Financial Management (OFM).**

- New Governor Transition and budget development and how it impacts CHA.
- Doug Jenkins, OFM Analyst, is currently reviewing the budget CHA submitted. Will make a recommendation to the State Legislature at the beginning of session.
- CHAs' request for more staff and more resources is consistent with the other Minority Commission request.
- Transition: will not know what the transition will be like until after the November elections. Candidates are Christine Gregoire and Dino Rossi.
- Each state agency was asked to submit a transition briefing documents describing what the mission, resources, and significant issues faced in the upcoming biennium.
- Encouraged Commissioners to meet with the Governors office, Legislatures, OFM staff, and himself, since Commissioners are members of the community coming from all regions of the states and represent the voice of the people, they may have more of an impact on voicing the concerns and needs for the Commission in order to fulfill its mission.

**IV. Wes Pruitt – Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board.**

- Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board working on the gap to change the demand for jobs that require training beyond high school.
- Washington State is in 39<sup>th</sup> place for on time graduation rate. 48% of ethnic groups graduate on time.
- If a student obtains a GED, reviewing the statistics of what a GED will obtain, it's not much better than dropping out of high school.

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- Due to changing demographics, diversity of the labor force will dramatically increase.
- Job skills keep increasing. More and more students need further education after high school.
- The Workforce Board is working on different plans to address the dropout issue.

**V. Schedule Meeting Calendar for 2005:** Acting Executive Director Iñiguez has been speaking with Mexican Consulate of joining together for some of the meetings for next year. Some of the dates and times Consul Madrazo and Acting Executive Director Iñiguez have looked at are:

January 05 Walla Walla  
March 05 Wenatchee  
May 05 Sunnyside  
July 05 Aberdeen  
September 05 Mount Vernon  
December 05 Olympia

Commissioner Portugal asked why we were combining the meetings with the Mexican Consulate.

Director Iñiguez stated to get more people to the meetings. By having our meetings combined in the same building more people will be able to attend.

Commissioner Contreras stated that childcare could be coordinated with local MeChA groups.

Commissioner Portugal: Concerned that the audience will be there for different reasons, not to hear about the Commission or voice concerns.

Director Iñiguez stated we have to be ready, with more people attending the meeting. More responsibility. The Consul will share this responsibility. Someone needs to make a motion at the public meeting.

Commissioner Homero volunteered.

**Action Item:** Commissioner Tamez will make the recommendation for the 2005 Meeting calendar for the following dates: January: 28&29; March: 11&12 May: 13&14 July: 15&16, September: 23&24 December: dates to be determined pending Committee meeting dates.

**V. Set Agenda for Retreat:** Director Iñiguez stated that we would have a motivated speaker come in the morning to motivate the Commissioners. Also, a facilitator should be present to facilitate the issues. What does CHA need to accomplish? Establish or obtain a mission with a strategic plan for 2005, what are the priorities in regards to the issues that will be covered.

Commissioner Contreras wants someone to teach her how to lobby.

Commissioner Avalos suggested training in both lobbying and testifying.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton suggested training in crisis/respond communication. Respond very quickly as a Commission to crisis, for example, immigration raids this summer. Using some kind of a model, a format of something to respond quickly, so the Commission responds on time.

Agenda would include: testifying/lobbying/strategic plan/media.

Director Iñiguez suggested moving the public meeting from Olympia to Tacoma or Chehalis.

Commissioner Avalos asked what the Hispanic population was like in Chehalis and Tacoma.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton suggested Tacoma.

Commissioner Contreras will make a motion to move the public meeting from Olympia to Tacoma.

**Action Item:** Commissioner Contreras will make a motion at the public meeting to change location of Public Meeting on December 4, 2004 from Olympia to Tacoma.

**VI. LEAP Conference in February:** Cristina Gaeta is the Acting Executive Director for LEAP. Acting Executive Director Iñiguez stated he would contact Ms. Gaeta to offer CHAs assistance for the conference.

**VII. Legislative Day:** Cindy informed the Commissioners that only three responses were received. Commissioners agreed that Legislative Day should not be organized.

**VIII. Office Relocation:** Will be moving in April to the GA Building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor.

**IX. Commissioner Participation:** Chair Gaeta has stated he would like more Commissioners to attend community meetings and committee meetings. There has been some trouble getting participation. There are issues with no response to conference calls. Conference calls are really critical it is important to stay on track. If Commissioners are seeing similar patterns in their communities, CHA can respond very quickly to the Governor. Commissioner reports are also very critical and important to submit in writing to staff.

**X. Personnel Committee:** Commissioner Tamez, Commissioner Lopez-Morton, Commissioner Gaeta and Acting Executive Director Iñiguez are on the Personnel Committee. Have reviewed the applications, there was a good turn out, a good pool of

applicants. Each person on the Committee was assigned to speak to one of the candidates the committee has considered for recommendation

Acting Executive Director Iñiguez asked if the Committee was ready to make a recommendation of the top three names.

Commissioner Lopez-Morton stated that there was some consensus. The names that came on top were Jose Armando Munguia, Daniel Capetillo, Graciela Villanueva-Lopez, Ismael Flores, and Aniceto Ibañez.

## **XI. Commissioner Activity Report:**

### **Commissioner Contreras:**

- Meet with Cantwell staff roundtable meeting session in Wenatchee.
- Attended training for Washington Farm Bureau, ICE presented. Four hours of training, 10 minutes of ICE. Same information CHA received from NW Immigrant Rights Project was given out.
- Meetings for the Emergency Farmworker Housing.
- Brewster bridge proposal follow up. Paul from Department of Transportation (DOT\_ submitted a proposal and received \$56,000 to widen the bridge. Money will be received for 2005-2007 biennium.

### **Commissioner Portugal:**

- Working with local police department.
- Continuation of radio program.
- Voter registration.

### **Commissioner Avalos:**

- WSU Vancouver Branch diversity board. Working on recruiting and retaining more students of color.
- Senator Maria Cantwell staff in Vancouver in the process to set up Community Latino Health Care Fair in partnership with Catholic Community Fair.
- Washington State Fair Vancouver Branch to raise scholarship money for Latino students. Initial conversations are taking place.
- Completed involvement with HEC board bilingual education scholarship. Application and information were sent out late August and early September of this year.
- Working with Acting Executive Director Iñiguez and A+ Commission on the Hispanic Drop out rate.
- Teleconference with A + Commission on the lack of minorities involved on the WASL re-scoring.
- Meet with Antonio Sanchez on the Lieutenant Governor drop out initiative.

**Commissioner Banfi:**

- Expansion of Consejo and their Domestic Violence program. Trying to have Consejo meet with the Eastside Latino Leadership Forum.
- SEAMAR will have a clinic in Bellevue now.
- Second annual Hispanic Heritage month in Bellevue.
- Personal note: Fifth anniversary with CHA. Should start considering replacement for Bellevue.

**Commissioner Lopez-Morton:**

- Worked with Clark Manther on the ICE issues.
- Working with El Centro, trouble finding funding.
- Meet with Hummingbird Peter of the A+ Commission.
- Putting together a candidate forum.
- Working on cross burning issues in the State. Trying to work with Teens and educate them on diversity.
- Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs meeting.

**Commissioner Villareal:**

- Meeting with Jennifer Davis-Hayes.
- Decided to step down from the board of the Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Working with them on a consulting basis to help them keep going.
- Fiestas Patrias annual banquet is looking for sponsorship.
- Commitments with AD Hoc Committee an OMWBE.
- Meet with Jennifer Davis-Hayes of OED – City of Seattle.
- Meet with SBA Emerging Market Forum and SBA Fair and Lenders Forum.
- Meet with David Gandara.

**Commissioner Baca:**

- Making contacts with the community.
- Attended strategic planning meeting for the Whatcom County Committee for Children and Youth.
- Attended community meeting in Monroe sponsored by LULAC concern about possible discrimination in the schools. Traditionally Latinos are not involved in the PTA, etc.
- Attended Community Interaction Council in Bellingham.
- Whatcom Hispanic Organization meeting.
- Drafted letter for OSPI graduation and dropout rates.

**Commissioner Tamez:**

- Involved with INS issues in August. Attended a meeting with Yakima ICE. Spoke about concerns and theories the community has.
- Attended the Farmworker Advocacy Group and L&I Project. Columbia Legal Services and farmworker advocacy resulted in beneficial information for Hispanic

Community. New program if they feel they have been discriminated they now have more protection so an investigation can take place.

- Continued involvement with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the Tri-Cities.
- Involved in a case where Liquor Control Board Agent would not give a liquor license to a restaurant owner because he implied the restaurant owner had illegal employees. Agent contacted INS.
- Working on Benton City issue. Student at a school got caught by a gym teacher while “tagging”. Student stabbed and killed teacher.
- Middle schools in Pasco and Mabton want to get parents more involved in their students’ education.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.